

# South Dakota National Guard

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **DoD salutes SD National Guard Family Readiness Program**

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

Nick Simeone - DoD News, Defense Media Activity contributed to this story

WASHINGTON – The war on terrorism that began with the 9/11 attacks has meant that unprecedented numbers of reserve troops have been called to active duty. The Department of Defense, as it has done for the past 15 years, honored the top unit in each reserve component for its outstanding programs that support unit missions and family readiness, Feb. 27 at the Pentagon.

For the third consecutive year, a South Dakota Army National Guard unit was at the Pentagon's Reserve Family Readiness Awards ceremony to receive the award in the Army National Guard category as the Sioux Falls and Flandreau, S.D.-based 1742nd Transportation Company was named the 2014 award recipient.

Richard O. Wightman Jr., principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, expressed the department's gratitude for family readiness support programs around the country that allow Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Guardsmen to serve around the world without having to worry about the challenges of life on the home front.

"To these unsung heroes, we owe much," Wightman said. "They have given their time, freely, without any guarantees of accolades or reimbursements, yet they sacrifice their evenings, weekends, and time with family in the selfless service of others."

Capt. Tyler Gerlach, commander of the 1742nd, Christine Krogman, Family Readiness Group leader, and Kristin Neuhardt, Family Readiness support assistant were on hand to receive the award, while Gen. Frank J. Grass, chief of National Guard Bureau and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general, were in attendance.

"It is truly an honor to receive a federal award at this level," said Gerlach. "It's a tribute to the strong values and sense of family that we have the pleasure to work with in the South Dakota Army National Guard. I think the award is a reassurance for a job well done and a sure sign that not only are our units operationally ready for any mission, but that our families carry on some of the same traits that make us not only successful at home but even more so as we are deployed."

Units recognized for outstanding efforts to build support networks for Guard and Reserve families are:

-- The Army National Guard's 1742nd Transportation Company, Sioux Falls, South Dakota;

-- The Army Reserve's 75th Legal Operations Detachment, Mountain View, California;

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- The Marine Corps Reserve's 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Baltimore;
- The Navy Reserve's Navy Operation Support Center Charleston, North Charleston, South Carolina;
- The Air National Guard's 157th Air Refueling Wing, Pease, Air National Guard Base, New Hampshire;
- The Air Force Reserve's 934th Airlift Wing, Minneapolis; and
- The Coast Guard Reserve's Port Security Unit 312, San Francisco.

Retired Navy Vice Adm. Norbert R. Ryan Jr., president and CEO of the Military Officers Association of America, credited family readiness programs with making a huge difference in the lives of those deployed far from home.

"Service members are able to focus on their duties armed with the knowledge that a support structure back home will help care for their families," he said.

The MOAA donates \$1,000 to each of the seven honoree units' family programs.

Past winners include the SDNG's 235th Military Police Company, located in Rapid City and Sioux Falls, who received the award for 2013 and the 842nd Engineer Company, located in Spearfish, Belle Fourche and Sturgis, who received the 2012 award.

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High resolution photos are available at [www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard)



**150227-D-ZZ999-001:** Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Richard O. Wightman, Jr., center left, and Gen. Frank J. Grass, chief of National Guard Bureau, right, present the 2014 Reserve Family Readiness Award for the Army National Guard to Capt. Tyler Gerlach, commander of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 1742nd Transportation Company, as the unit was named a top unit in the seven Reserve and National Guard services at a ceremony Feb. 27, 2015, at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes. The award is given to the unit in each of the seven services that demonstrates excellence in engaging with and supporting their members' families. (DoD photo by Steve Turner, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs/Released)



**150227-D-ZZ999-002:** Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard, the 1742nd Transportation Company and the 1742nd Family Readiness Group accept the 2014 Reserve Family Readiness Award for the Army National Guard from Department of Defense officials at a ceremony Feb. 27, 2015, at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes. The Reserve Family Readiness Award is given to the unit in each of the seven services that demonstrates excellence in engaging with and supporting their members' families. (DoD photo by Steve Turner, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs/Released)



**150227-D-ZZ999-003:** The South Dakota Army National Guard's 1742nd Transportation Company received the 2014 Reserve Family Readiness Award for the Army National Guard at a ceremony Feb. 27, 2015, at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes. The Reserve Family Readiness Award is given to the unit in each of the seven services that demonstrates excellence in engaging with and supporting their members' families. (DoD photo by Steve Turner, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs/Released)

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